

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

FEBRUARY 1980

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Pres: Mrs R. Mills
Treas: Mr L. Bransgrove.
Sec: Mr G. Sitch
Newsletter: Mr E. Perkins.

ORCHIDS OF THE CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT Number 25 of a series

CALADENIA CLAVIGERA

(Plain-lip, Clubbed or Small Spider Orchid)

Flowering time: September -October

This rather rare orchid is to be found at East Taradale. A rather hairy stem rises from a single hairy lanceolate leaf - typical of the Spider Orchids.

The labellum does not have a fringe or teeth, but has four rows of calli, which are slender and well separated. The top of the labellum is red, and the sepals, which are longer than the petals, have a red stripe down the centre. The ends are pointed and usually minutely clubbed.

The flower is seldom more than 3 cm across and the whole plant is 10 - 12 cm high.

.... by R. Mills.

PHOTOFLORA '80 IS BEING SHOWN AT

MARCH 21

Library Hall, Barker Street

Screening at 8 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$1.50

NINETY MINUTES OF NATURE PICTURES

A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT BY R. Mills

Again the Club has had a varied and interesting program. Over the past twelve months we have visited a number of new areas, such as Dargile Forest and during our Club campout, Wychitella and Wedderburn. As well, we have re-visited favourite haunts such as Barkers Creek pond, Elphinstone Ridge, and with the Maryborough Club, Tarrengower and Nuggetty.

Meeting topics have also covered many interests. Most of the suggestions have come from the committee, but ideas from other club members are very welcome.

This year's committee has been an excellent one, conscientious and hard working. My special thanks go to the secretary, Geoff Sitch, who, despite a busy program of his own, has done a sterling job as secretary; and to Lloyd Bransgrove, who as treasurer, has kept the Club's records in excellent order.

Both are to be specially commended, although this in no way takes anything from the rest of the committee, who have worked together as a happy team. Those who have taken on responsibilities of one kind or another have carried them out willingly and well.

I am reluctant to mention names as I am sure to miss someone, but I must mention the editor of the Castlemaine Naturalist who has put a lot of time and effort into the newsletter.

I could go on to those who have kept records, attended to supper, taken part in special projects, set out the seats etc. etc. My thanks to anyone who has helped during the year.

I am hoping to see new faces on the committee this year. New faces mean new ideas, and although this committee, largely unchanged, has worked so well for four years, there is always the danger of stagnation and loss of interest if it remains static.

In closing, I would like to again express my thanks and wish the Club a most enjoyable and informative year during 1980.

NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

Membership 1979 There were 58 adult members.

Subscriptions for 1980 The Club had a slightly increased surplus for 1979, and the committee recommends that the subscription rates remain unchanged.

Short (5 minute) Talks It is hoped that these can be a regular feature of meetings. Mr S. Bruton will give the first of these at the February meeting.

Specimens Remember to bring specimens to meetings.

Supper Roster M & R Winterbottom for Feb meeting.

Beauglehole Fund The Club will write to the Minister of Conservation, supporting the provision of funds for publication of the remaining plant distribution books.

RED WATTLE BIRDS by T. Collins

To us at Campbells Creek they take on the role of Public Enemy No 1. We wish that they would just go away.

Our house is surrounded by gums on four sides. Each segment has its family or families of wattle birds. Around the house we have native bushes; banksias, bottlebrushes, grevilleas etc., all flowering at some time or another in readiness to harbour small birds, but with very little luck. If any small bird appears on the horizon, there is immediately a concentrated attack by the wattle birds resulting in the bird being driven off or even killed. Even the rosellas that nest in the hollow logs provided are subject to attack and should they call in for berries in autumn then their life is utter misery trying to feed. Two Grey Currawongs and the magpies have to withstand assaults.

We come across small dead birds from time to time, and I feel sure that these are victims of the wattle birds. The population of these disliked birds seems to have increased over the past few years. Has the balance of nature been tipped in their favour as they seem to have no predators or worry? Perhaps other readers could comment on this angle.

Photoflora '80

A Photographic Competition

for

Colour Slides

of

Australian Flowers, Birds and Wildlife



CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM

MEETINGS

Fri Feb 8 Microscopic Pond Life

Speaker: Dr E. Peters

This is the annual meeting

Fri Mar 14 Members Night.

Members are asked to contribute items for the meeting.

Fri Mar 21 Photoflora 80

Library Hall, at 8.00 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$1.50

Children .80

Family \$4.00

Fri Apr 11 Bee-keeping

Speaker: To be arranged

Fri May 9 Birds

Speaker: Mr C. Burt.

ANNUAL MEETING

A president, secretary, treasurer and two vice presidents are to be elected, together with four other committee members. According to the Club's constitution, the term of any one office should not exceed two years.

PHOTOFLORA TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased at the Education Centre, the Castlemaine Market or at the door.

Members are asked to assist in publicising the event. To avoid a financial loss a substantial attendance is required.

EXCURSIONS

Sat Feb 9 Pond Life

Leaders: R. Mills and G. Broadway. Leave Ed. Centre at 1.30.

Sat-Mon Mar 8,9,10 Benalla

Vic Field Nat. Club Assn. camp-out at Benalla. Tentative program is

Sat Mar 8 -Mokoan Wall and Warby Ranges.

Sun Mar 9 - Strathbogie Ranges and Crystal Mine or Mt Samaria National Park.

Mon Mar 10- Reef Hills Park (a.m. Accomodation is available at the old army camp. See E. Perkins for details.

Sun Mar 16 Wombat Forest.

Leave Ed Centre at 10.00

Tues 20 March Creswick FNC

Silver Jubilee Meeting

Speaker is Mr J.R. Wheeler, MBE. Church of England Hall, 8 pm.

Sat April 12 Black Hill (near Kyneton). Leave Ed Centre 1.30

Fri-Sun Apr 11-13 Ft Campbell

Fri Apr 11-Penguins at London Bridge, or Glow-worms; then Dance in Community Hall.

Sat Apr 12 9 am-fossils at Clifton Beach, Prinetown; 1 pm Bay of Islands; 6 pm-Meeting; 8 pm-Talk by Nat. Parks officer, then slides. (This is a WVFNCA campout)

Sun Apr 13 Melba Gully, Lavers Hill.

(See Sec. for further details)

Business meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Both business and general meetings are held at the Education Centre, Mostyn St (SEC Building). We welcome visitors.